



**Award in Hematological Cancers'  
Research in Memory of  
Dr. Rachel Mandel**

**FREQUENTLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Additional content: 30Apr2019

### 1. Why is the Alberta Cancer Foundation extending the deadline to May 20<sup>th</sup>?

Although we have already had significant interest from the research and clinical communities, some areas have been identified where clarification would assist other potential applicants to better understand the call and develop stronger proposals.

We have extended the deadline and compiled these FAQs to provide more information while respecting the significant time and effort in developing projects of those who have already applied.

### 2. How will the four criteria (Program/Scientific Merit, High Level Program Execution, Potential Impact on Alberta Patients, and Path to Alberta Patient Impact) be used during the different stages of the call?

The process will proceed in the following sequence:

- Upon submission, the Expert Review Panel will short-list the proposals to proceed to in-person presentations, based **solely** on Scientific Merit of the idea and its execution;
- Panel experts will however provide **feedback on all four criteria** to the applicants selected to proceed to an in-person presentation;
- Applicants have the opportunity to make changes to their proposal based on reviewer feedback, present an updated plan and address any questions at the in-person presentation stage;
- Based on feedback from the Committee after the in person presentations, the Foundation will select proposals that are ready for funding **based on all four criteria**. Proposals that are deemed to have significant merit but are not fully developed will be assigned to a Foundation Relationship Manager, who will guide the proponents to further develop for re-consideration at a later date.

### 3. How many of the 10 pages requested in the proposal should be dedicated to Scientific Merit?

As proposals will differ widely in platform and approach, the Foundation does not impose limits on individual sections. The only requirement is that between the proposal and subsequent in-person presentation, all four criteria need to be addressed.

#### 4. How many projects will be awarded and at what \$ amounts?

##### (Replaces and clarifies Q6 from FAQ Feb2019)

Typically the Foundation does not set a limit for the opportunities we review. We believe doing so is detrimental to both our understanding/ evaluation of the investment and the applicants' ability to be innovative.

The Foundation has committed to invest a **minimum** of \$1MM towards these initiatives but will consider a larger investment where there are high quality, scientifically excellent projects that align with the Foundation's strategic direction and known donor interest. Unlike other funders, the Foundation will often award investments in advance of raising the funds. The maximum term for proposals is three years.

Additionally, while the Foundation does not pre-determine the number or \$ amount of projects, here are some potential scenarios:

- Two projects are approved, each at total \$500k/ 3 years;
- One project is approved at \$400k and one project is further developed, reassessed and funded six months later for \$800k/ 3 years;
- Based on the proposal's quality and the Foundation's ability to attract additional funding, one project is approved at \$1.4MM/ 3 years.

In addition, the Foundation will seek other partners for projects that it would like to support to increase the amount available and enable more projects to be funded.

#### 5. Has the Foundation already identified preferred projects to receive this funding?

**Absolutely not.** The Foundation will utilize the advice of the Expert Review Committee and consider the Foundation's financial situation and fundraising ability when making funding decisions.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Why is Alberta Cancer Foundation making a focused call in this area?

The Alberta Cancer Foundation makes investments that have a direct impact on patient outcomes. A focused call will allow us to invest in an area of importance to our donors, stakeholders and Albertan patients and their families. There is currently significant donor interest in the area of hematological cancer research led in Edmonton with particular interest in lymphoma, multiple myeloma and pediatric cancers, although all hematological cancers will be considered.

### 2. What if my idea is broader than Hematological oncology?

If the solutions you are proposing have strong applicability to other areas, mention these in your Proposal. However, hematology must be the main focus for your program.

### **3. What kind of ideas is the Foundation looking for?**

The Foundation is seeking ideas that have a direct line of sight to hematological cancer patients in Alberta. We consider investment opportunities through both an investee and a donor lens and use a rigorous process that incorporates local leadership, donor and patient representatives' and scientific and medical expert recommendations.

### **4. Who is eligible to apply?**

Highly qualified individuals in hematology, *ideally* holding an academic appointment at University of Alberta *or* Alberta Health Services with an appointment at the Cross Cancer Institute, are invited to apply. Solutions with a short time to impact and a clear, plausible path to implementation in Alberta are encouraged.

### **5. When should I expect a response?**

Once the deadline for submission of Proposals has passed, we will ask the Fund Allocation Committee associated with this Fund to review your proposal. We will contact you regarding the review process and where applicable, when you and your team will be required to present your ideas in-front of our Fund Allocation Committee.

### **6. What are the investment limits for this opportunity?**

Replaced by Q3. On page 2.

### **7. What are eligible expenses for this funding opportunity?**

Please note that overhead and administration fees are considered ineligible expenses. Other than that, any expense related to the successful implementation of the proposed program may be considered an eligible expense. All expenses will be reviewed and agreed upon as part of the investment agreement process.

### **8. Am I required to find matching funds?**

Although this is not a requirement, the ability to leverage our donors' investment is viewed very favorably. In some cases, this is better achieved between the Foundation and the other funding organizations with the support of the Team Lead.

### **9. Why am I being asked about stages past this investment term (impact in patients)?**

The Alberta Cancer Foundation invests in programs that have high potential for significant impact for Albertans facing cancer. An understanding of the translation path, the associated timelines, risks, and individuals and partnerships necessary to engage now and in the future, are essential in successfully generating impact to Albertans.

**10. Will the Foundation be looking for ideas in any other areas?**

As we assess our portfolio of investments and work closely with our donors, we will continue to identify other areas where we may be interested in seeking ideas. Communications will take place at that time.

Whenever you have any great idea which can make a positive impact on cancer patients and their families in Alberta, you can contact the Foundation via e-mail:

[programinvestment@albertacancer.ca](mailto:programinvestment@albertacancer.ca).